astrocytoma, glioblastoma, neuroblastoma, ovarian carcinoma, osteosarcoma, [and] or renal cancer.

26. (Twice amended) A method for reducing the proliferation of tumor cells in a subject, the method comprising administering under suitable conditions an effective amount of an adenoviral expression vector comprising: a) a partial or total deletion of a protein IX-encoding DNA sequence and b) a gene encoding a suicide protein or a biologically active fragment thereof;

and an effective amount of a thymidine kinase metabolite or a functional equivalent thereof.

Please add the following new claims:

32. (New) A method for obtaining expression of a tumor suppressor gene in a cell, the method comprising contacting the cell with an effective amount of a recombinant adenovirus expression vector comprising: a) a partial or total deletion of a protein IX-encoding DNA sequence, and b) a gene encoding a foreign protein having a tumor suppressive function;

wherein the foreign protein is produced by the cell.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the cell is present in a mammal.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the cell is a tumor cell.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the contacting of the tumor cell by the recombinant adenovirus expression vector is accomplished by intratumoral or peritumoral injection of the recombinant adenovirus expression vector.

36. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the foreign protein is a functional tumor suppressor protein.

37. (New) A method for obtaining expression of a suicide protein in a cell, the method comprising administering to the cell an effective amount of a recombinant adenovirus expression vector comprising: a) a partial or total deletion of a protein IX-encoding DNA sequence, and b) a gene encoding a suicide protein;

wherein an mRNA encoding the suicide protein is produced by the cell.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the cell is present in a mammal.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the cell is a tumor cell.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the contacting of the tumor cell by the recombinant adenovirus expression vector is accomplished by intratumoral or peritumoral injection of the recombinant adenovirus expression vector.

41. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the suicide protein is a functional thymidine kinase protein, a functional *E. coli DEO Δ* protein, or a functional cytosine deaminase protein.

In The Drawings:

Please replace informal Figures 1-16 with the enclosed formal drawings for Figures 1-12. Original Figures 7-8 are renumbered as Figures 5-6; original Figures 10-12 are renumbered as Figures 7-9; and original Figures 14-16 are renumbered as Figures 10-12 to account for the cancellation of original Figures 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 6C, 9, 13A, and 13B.)

REMARKS

The Claimed Invention

This invention provides methods of obtaining expression of a tumor suppressor gene or a suicide gene in a cell by contacting the cell with an adenoviral vector that has a deletion of all or part of the protein IX coding region. The deletion of the protein IX region from the adenoviral vector aids in the preparation of adenoviral preparations that are free of contaminating